Jisu Pang

James Charlton + Simi Linton + the “r” word

October 17, 2010

“The ‘R’ Word”

James Charlton and Simi Linton both discuss in their works how the disabled community is usually looked upon as weak, powerless and out of the norm; the disabled are oppressed because of their disability. James Charlton discusses in his work “The Dimensions of Disability Oppression” of how disability oppression is everywhere because people are not completely aware of its effects and the pain it can cause. Simi Linton in “Reassigning Meaning” discusses how people can change the definition of disability with their words and actions. The two disability activists relate to one another in their works because they both agree with how society has a great impact on the definition of disability and its impact on the disabled. The “r” word campaign is filled with people who care and want to stop people from saying the word “retarded.” It is a hurtful gesture but it is so commonly used. The “r” word is in many people’s everyday vocabulary. The people who use this word are disregarding the disabled community and are describing them in a negative way. The disabled deserves a right to have a say in what word is being used to portray them.